

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No.: 10/686,817

Attorney Docket No.: Q77855

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant submits herewith a formal replacement drawing for Figure 12 as requested by the Examiner.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 18 have been examined and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in the April 11, 2008 Office Action. Applicant provides the following comments regarding the previous objections/rejections of the present Application.

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has objected to Figure 12 and requested that the term “treble” be replaced with “triple” or “tripled” to conform with the specification. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Figure 12 as requested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has also objected to the specification and claims due to informalities. In regard to the specification, the Examiner has provided suggested changes and indicated that the Applicant may choose to implement the changes. Applicant submits herewith a substitute specification (red-lined and clean version) which addresses those issues deemed in need of correction. Any issues not addressed involve changes that the Applicant did not wish to implement or believes were unnecessary. No new matter has been added.

Applicant has also addressed the claim objections noted by the Examiner.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,481,655 to Jacobs (“Jacobs”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,575,095 to Mahy (“Mahy”).

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jacobs in view of Mahy.

Applicant incorporates herein all arguments previously presented in the January 10, 2008 Amendment.

Additionally, claim 1 now recites, “said patch data are so defined as to increase the number of patches in a low-lightness range than the number of patches in a high-lightness range by a first gamma correction process so that interpolation can be carried out with high accuracy in the low-lightness range.”

The above feature was previously recited in claim 3, now canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Examiner fails to mention the difference of the number of patches extracted in the high-lightness range and the low-lightness range in regard to the cited references. In the present invention, the number of patches in a low-lightness range are increased to provide an intentional unbalanced number of patches between the low-lightness range and the high-lightness range. Such feature is not taught or suggested in the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 1 now recites, “said half tone processing, which represents gradations by a count of dots recorded per unit area, adjusts the count of dots, while taking into account a fractional portion, when an inverse gamma correction is applied to said ink value data, the inverse gamma correction corresponding to the second gamma correction.”

In regard to the above feature, the Examiner asserts that the count of dots would change because the change of tone values per unit variation is different in a lower lightness range. Claim 1, however, expressly defines that the count of dots are adjusted by taking into account a fractional portion when the half-tone processing applies inverse gamma correction. Such inverse gamma correction corresponds to the second gamma correction which was applied to the ink

value data beforehand. Applicant submits that the cited references fail to teach or suggest the claimed features.

At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Since claims 8, 9 and 11 contain analogous features as recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 1.

Since claims 2 and 12 are dependent upon one of claims 1 or 11, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Finally, Applicant has canceled claims 3-6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Jacobs, Mahy and U.S. Patent No. 6,439,682 to Kakutani (“Kakutani”)

The Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jacobs, Mahy and Kakutani. Since claims 7 and 18 contain features that are analogous to the features discussed above for claim 1, and Kakutani fails to cure the deficient teachings of Jacobs and Mahy, at least in regard to claims 7 and 18, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable over the cited references for at least analogous reasons as claim 1.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

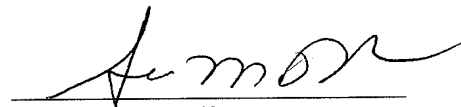
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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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